

**Board of Trustees
Suffolk County Department of Parks
Recreation and Conservation**

Minutes of March 16, 2006 at Meadow Edge, West Sayville

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ray Corwin Chairman, Member at Large
Aurelio Colina Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr. Trustee, Town of East Hampton
John Fritz Trustee, Town of Babylon
Jeanine Dillon Member of the Board
Miles Borden Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gregory Dawson Trustee, Town of Islip
Gary Olsen Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Terrence Pearsall Member of the Board

ABSENT: Alexander McKay Trustee, Town of Huntington
Gil Cardillo Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Vacant Trustee, Town of Southold
Vacant Trustee, Town of Shelter Island

PARKS DEPARTMENT: Ronald F. Foley Commissioner
Tracey Bellone Deputy Commissioner
Colleen Hofmeister Contracts Manager
Bill Sickles Sr. Superintendent of Parks
Tom Hroncich Marketing Specialist
Mary Simonsen Secretary to the Commissioner

GUESTS: Jennifer Kohn Assistant County Attorney
Janet Longo Assistant Director of Planning

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2006:

There were no corrections to the February 16, 2006 minutes.

PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE:

There were no acquisitions presented.

Chairman Corwin asked the Trustees if they had anything to discuss regarding Planning and Real Estate.

Trustee Fritz asked about a piece of property on Dune Road in Quogue between Dockers Restaurant and a nature preserve, which had a "For Sale" sign on it for quite some time. The sign is now gone. Was that bought as a preserve by the County or Town? Janet Longo said to be certain what property Trustee Fritz was referring to, she would need a tax map number. She said

there is a piece of property consisting of 130 acres of wetlands on the bay side of Dune Road which the County has been interested in for quite some time, but it is far from fruition. Vice Chairman Colina said he walked that property in the past and it had previously been discussed for acquisition. He is glad to see it has resurfaced. Trustee Fritz said he would go back to the property he was speaking of to get more information.

Janet Longo said someone had shown her an article about **Boy's Harbor** in East Hampton and said they are looking at it as a possible partnership acquisition between the County and the Town of East Hampton. It contains several structures and is used as a camp. Deputy Commissioner Bellone asked if it would be purchased as active recreation. Ms. Longo said yes, but they would try to negotiate to have the town responsible for maintaining and running it and have that stated in the legal documents.

Commissioner Foley asked if before he began his report, if we could discuss the **capital budget** which was distributed and discussed at the previous meeting.

Vice Chairman Colina wanted to note that having the pages numbered is a great help. He thanked the Commissioner and his staff for providing such accurate, realistic figures to handle the complexity of the holdings we have and the work that needs to be done. This is a good move in that direction.

The Commissioner wanted to add a word of gratitude to Mary Morabito, Principal Auditor for the Parks Department, for the many hours she spent in preparing the budget document.

With no questions or changes, the motion to approve the budget was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Borden and voted in favor of unanimously.

Chairman Corwin asked what the next step in the process is. Commissioner Foley said it will be submitted to the County Executive Budget Office for development of the County Executive's recommendation to the Legislature. The Legislature has a hearing and can make alterations. They vote on it and it goes back to the County Executive for his approval. The Commissioner said he is present at these meetings to justify the budget requests.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

The new **golf season** begins tomorrow. It will be the first test of the **new reservation system** at the golf pro facilities. Deputy Commissioner Bellone and Emily Leogrande, Community Relations Director for the Parks Department, have been working with the golf pros to get them trained on the new system. Commissioner Foley commended them for their tireless efforts on implementing the new system.

We wanted customer-friendliness to be the priority of the decisions made regarding the new system. We've conversed with the County Treasurer, and staff from County Comptroller's office have been looking over what we are proposing to do. They seem to be happy that we have addressed the internal control issues they had previously brought up. Deputy Commissioner Bellone also gave credit to Emily Leogrande and said that golf had gone live the night before and it went well. We have tried to keep the golf pros in as much of the discussion and decision making as possible. The system has been available for camping reservations since mid-January.

The **erosion project at Indian Island County Park** where the artifacts were found is complete, although it is only a temporary solution. Bill Sickles has been working with the contractor and the area was filled with sand. With the sand we mixed clam shells from the Indian Reservation to discourage further unauthorized excavation. We will have to go to DPW at some

point for a more long term project to deal with the erosion. On the Indian Island golf course there was a problem at the 5th hole, some gabions were put in a few years ago, but they haven't held up.

At **Smith Point**, DPW will be doing a small dune-building project. They will excavate from a dredge disposal area that was used a number of years ago to create a dune where 700-800 feet of one washed away. We have obtained the permit from DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) and the work should begin on Monday. It is a temporary fix in lieu of a larger project that needs to be done, but we couldn't find anyone who could do it last fall.

There are 5 **Park Police Officer recruits** in the Suffolk County Police Academy, they will be graduating in April. One of the Park Police recruits earned Valedictorian honors. Trustee White asked if they were still accepting applicants. The Commissioner said there is currently one vacancy and that applicants have to take the Civil Service test, go through the academy, etc.

The **Timber Point maintenance facility** is nearly complete. It is an impressive facility and it will improve our ability to reduce and control the effects of chemicals on the environment.

Chairman Corwin asked in regard to the **human remains at Indian Island**, were they left there? Bill Sickles said yes, they were reburied there.

In regard to **historic structures**, Trustee Borden noted that some buildings are on the Historic Trust List and asked if there were any other categories of historic buildings. Commissioner Foley said the Historic Trust is the local designation for historic properties, Suffolk County's version of the National Register for Historic Places. There could be properties on our Trust List that are not on the State Register and/or National Register. And there are also buildings of a certain age that are eligible for the list but are not because they have not been nominated or acted on.

Trustee Fritz asked about the permit for the **Smith Point fishing pier**. The Commissioner said he has heard nothing further on it.

Vice Chairman Colina asked for more information on whether a wall would be considered as a noise barrier at the **Trap and Skeet** facility. The Commissioner said as of now, it is not our intention that a wall will be built, but we know we will have to deal with noise mitigation somehow. We would like to look into something less permanent than a wall would be; something we can move around as we find areas where noise needs to be addressed.

As Vice Chairman Colina missed former Trustee **Jay Miller's** last meeting he wanted to say that he has a great deal of respect for Mr. Miller and his keen analytical mind and said that he had the best interests at heart and really took this job seriously, and he will miss his elaborate power ties. He was glad to see that he was so honored at his last meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman said at the March 8th Parks Committee meeting an **Ecology and Technology Park** was mentioned, what is that? The Commissioner said it is based on a Resolution that has been passed, sponsored by Legislator Cooper. Legislator Cooper envisions a park where energy saving improvements and conservation tools would be modeled for children to learn about hands-on. We will be working with the Legislator and other groups to determine exactly what it will consist of. It will be placed in an existing park.

Chairman Corwin mentioned that at the last meeting, he had promised to give the Parks Committee members documents and materials regarding **alternative park funding**, but the

amount of materials was so voluminous that he did not have the time to go through it all. He will have it prepared for the March 29th meeting.

A nominee for **Southold Trustee** has been named by the Southold Town Supervisor; it has yet to be approved by the Legislature. This would leave only one vacancy, Shelter Island.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee White asked for an update on the **Third House restoration**. Bill Sickles said he attended a meeting at Third House on March 10th with the contractors, but no work has begun because they do not have their signed contract. Other than that they are ready to go. We only have to work out some logistical details, such as the possibility of overnight housing needs for the workers. The Commissioner said the downside of that is it would displace the 20-30 members of the Hampton's Shakespeare Festival who usually occupy the cabins during the festival. They are not happy about that, but we have been warning them for the last two years that this was going to happen. He said he has been reaching out to some contacts out east to help reach a solution. Trustee White suggested they contact the East Hampton Chamber of Commerce, who might be able to help, and he said the festival is a great asset to the community of Montauk.

Trustee Fritz asked if this would impact the camping jamboree in August. The Commissioner said they wouldn't have use of Third House or any of the cabins. Bill Sickles said the jamboree is held near the picnic pavilion and as it looks now, that location is outside the designated work area and should not be affected. There would be power and water available at the pavilion.

Trustee Fritz said there are some vacancies on the **Sportsman's Advisory Committee** and asked Bill Sickles if he had received any resumes. Mr. Sickles said he hasn't received any and the Commissioner said if any had come to him, he would have forwarded them to Mr. Sickles, but he also has not received any. Trustee Fritz wanted to make the Trustees aware that if they knew anyone who might be interested, they can be involved in almost any outdoor activity and they meet every other month.

Trustee Pearsall said on Tuesday, the Legislature approved funding for the acquisition of **Loughlin Vineyards** at Meadow Croft. Janet Longo said it falls under a conservation easement and farmland development.

DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 1:00 pm at Deepwells Farms in St. James.

The Chairman reminded the Trustees that the next meeting of the Parks Committee is March 29th and to try to attend them when they can.

The motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Colina and seconded by Trustee Borden. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Simonsen.